



BUREAU OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR
10240 SYSTEMS PARKWAY, SACRAMENTO, CA 95827



Official Notice

December 21, 2001

To: All Licensed Smog Check Technicians and Smog Check Station Operators

Subject: Inspection of OBDII Systems

Federal regulations (Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, §51.357) require that the Smog Check program include OBDII functional testing as of January 1, 2002. Attached you will find the BAR-97 EIS OBDII test procedures; insert the procedures along with this notice into your Smog Check Inspection Manual (Part III) between pages 90 and 91. Licensed technicians must follow these procedures when performing the Smog Check inspection on enhanced area vehicles.

As you may know, the OBDII test requires a BAR-97 software and hardware update. The update must be installed on all BAR-97 EIS units operating in enhanced Smog Check areas and on any dynamometer equipped BAR-97 EIS units operating in basic areas. Upon determination by BAR that enforcement action is appropriate, BAR will commence actions against stations that are not compliant with the update requirement. To avoid any disruption of inspection capability, stations should strongly consider the immediate purchase and installation of the update. Please contact your EIS manufacturer for information about the availability and installation of the update.

Once the update is installed, the automated OBDII test must be performed on all applicable 1996 and newer vehicles **registered in enhanced smog check areas**. For basic area stations using a BAR-90 analyzer or BAR-97 platform (without a dynamometer), there will be no change in the current inspection procedure.

The OBD II test is an automated process that interfaces with the on-board systems to evaluate and report the status and/or results of the readiness indicators, system faults and malfunction indicator light (MIL). Be aware that the traditional MIL functional check remains unchanged.

During this initial phase of automated OBDII testing, vehicles will not be subject to emission control monitor readiness requirements. The test data collected during this first phase of testing will provide BAR with the information needed to establish appropriate readiness requirements and retest procedures.

The BAR-97 update contains additional upgrades, including the following:

- Remote Software Update Capability: Allows future software updates to be installed by the user or on-line by the manufacturer; a service call should not be needed.
- Improved Fuel Cap Test: Allows technicians to replace defective fuel caps during the Smog Check inspection.

- Updatable Messages: Allows BAR to update VIR messages without a software update.
- Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) Inputs: Adds a provision for entering CAP repair costs.
- DLC link provides an rpm signal for OBDII equipped vehicles.
- Analyzer/Dynamometer Self Diagnostics: Performs self diagnostic routines to ensure the gas analyzer and dynamometer scale readings are within an expected range.
- Special Test Sequences: Allows BAR to tailor test sequences to accommodate unusual vehicle characteristics.

Thank you for your cooperation in this critically important endeavor.